

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated March 3, 2004. New claim 13 has been added. Thus, claims 1-13 are now pending.

Figs. 8-10 have been labeled "prior art" as suggested by the Examiner. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the drawing objection be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the formality claim objections set forth in paragraph 3 of the Office Action have been addressed and rendered moot in view of the claim changes set forth herein.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102 as being allegedly anticipated by each of Oh, Douma, Yung, Song and Wright. These Section 102 rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 as amended requires "a shielding member detachably fitted to a bottom end of the exhaust cylinder, wherein the shielding member closes off the bottom end of the exhaust cylinder so that air entering the exhaust cylinder enters the exhaust cylinder through a port located in a peripheral edge of the exhaust cylinder, and wherein the shielding member is located above an area of the dust collecting chamber where dust is collected, and wherein the shielding member includes a plurality of elongated ribs extending downwardly from a top portion thereof for separating dust from the air in the dust collection chamber." For example, Figs. 4 and 6 of the instant application illustrate that shielding member 46 includes a plurality of elongated ribs 46b extending

downwardly from a top portion thereof for separating dust from the air in the dust collection chamber (e.g., pg. 11, lines 17-24, pg. 12, lines 1-5, and pg. 13, lines 9-23).

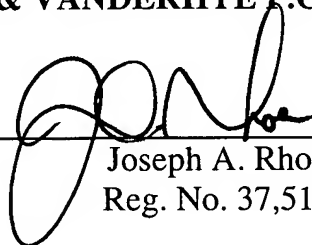
The cited art fails to disclose or suggest the aforesaid underlined aspect of claim 1. For example, each of the cited references fails to disclose or suggest a shielding member which closes off the bottom end of the exhaust cylinder so that air entering the exhaust cylinder enters the exhaust cylinder through a port located in a peripheral edge of the exhaust cylinder, wherein the shielding member includes a plurality of elongated ribs extending downwardly from a top portion thereof for separating dust from the air in the dust collection chamber. The cited art is entirely unrelated to the invention of claim 1 in this regard.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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